

KOSCIUSKO YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Kosciusko Youth Leadership Academy would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the following businesses and organizations that have generously supported the academy this past year. They include: Biomet, Inc.; CTB, Inc.; Dalton Corporation; DePuy, Inc.; Farmers State Bank; Hatfield Electric; J.C. Penney; Kos. Co. Foundation; Kos. Co. Sheriff's Dept.; Kosciusko Leadership Academy; Monteith Tire; Mutual Federal Savings Bank; R.R. Donnelley; Symmetry Medical Othy; Sprint; Warsaw Police Station and the City of Warsaw; Warsaw Public Library; Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ten years have now passed by for the Kosciusko Youth Leadership Academy, and once again, this year has provided both the challenge and excitement that accompanies the learning and discovery process for all those involved. The future leaders profiled on this page have demonstrated that becoming involved in the community can be rewarding and beneficial in many ways.

Our students, juniors from five local area high schools, have spent the last several months learning about various aspects of the community along with leadership and communication skills. The Kosciusko Youth Leadership Academy Class of 2003-2004 is now preparing for the final event for the year — graduation! The annual graduation banquet will take place on Wednesday, May 5, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at the 2517 Banquet Facility in Warsaw, IN. We believe that the experiences the students have gained from their involvement in the Academy will be lasting and will serve as a foundation for continuing friendships and commitment to community needs, wherever life takes them.

On behalf of the Kosciusko Youth Leadership Academy Board, I would like to express my sincere thanks for all who have contributed to the success of Kosciusko Youth Leadership Academy throughout the past decade. Many of you have volunteered time, resources and facilities to assist us. I would also like to thank the parents and the schools who have supported the students throughout the year. We appreciate your interest and investment in our future.

I would also like to recognize the contributions of the board members. I truly appreciate all that each of you has done to make this year a successful one, and look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Lastly, I'd like to thank each of our students for their year long commitment to the academy and a job well done. Good luck and congratulations Kosciusko Youth Leadership Academy students.

Carl Lauster, President

KYLA 2003-2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President/Fund Raising	Carl Lauster
Vice President Curriculum	Kristi Manwaring
Secretary	Beth Czuba
Treasurer	Christi Price
Curriculum	Cliff Staton
Selection	Barb Goslee
Publication	Dean Golden
Special Events	Karen Bender
Moderator	Tony Ciriello
Advisor	Coral Amspaugh-Topolski
At-Large	Becky Miller
At-Large	Bradley Clayton

Cameron Abbott

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: Student Government, NHS, High School Tennis, BPA, Mathletes, Academic Teams (History, English, Interdisciplinary)
Hobbies: Reading, Hiking, Biking
College: Undecided
Major: Political Science
Family: Parents: Joe & Elaine Abbott; Siblings: Collin

Project Proud Topic: WWII Veteran's Recognition Day/Veterans History Project

Ross Adang

Pierceton — Whitko High School



Activities: Football, Wrestling, Baseball/Softball, FCA, FCCLA, Academic Team, Model UN, NHS, Weight Lifting, Various Church Activities
Hobbies: Sports (Anything), Music, Hanging Out W/Friends
College: Undecided
Major: Criminal Justice/ Psychology
Family: Father: Steve Adang; Mother: Jackie Adang; Siblings: Jill; Pet: Rocky

Project Proud Topic: Kids For Communities

Emily Ahlersmeyer

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Latin Club, Mathletes, Redeemer Lutheran Youth Group, NHS
Hobbies: Work, Reading, Listening To Music, Spending Time W/Siblings & Friends
College: Purdue Univ. & Univ. of Michigan Law School
Major: Accounting & Law Degree
Family: Father: David; Mother: Shelley; Siblings: Abigail, Joseph, Timothy, Joshua

Project Proud Topic: Riley Children's Hospital Dolls

Hannah Bessinger

Tippecanoe — Triton Jr./Sr. High School



Activities: FBLA, NHS, Science Club, Spanish Club, Student Council, Peer Mediation, FCA, Choir, Musicals, Voice Lessons, The Country Church Praise Team & Youth Group, Office Worker, Tutor, Jr. Class Vice-Pres., & KYLA
Hobbies: Singing, Writing, Golf, Rubiks Cube, Spending Time W/ Family & Friends — "Love is the only thing you get more of by giving it away."
College: Anderson Univ., Univ. of Indianapolis, or Ball State
Major: Musical Theatre Education/Journalism
Family: Parents: Clint & Melissa; Siblings: Jena, Kelsey, Jake

Project Proud Topic: Bourbon Senior Center

Laura Bowerman

Milford — Wawasee High School



Activities: Apostolic Church, HS Bible Class, Help W/ Boy's & Girl's Club, Teach Gymnastics, Key Club, Drama Club, NHS, 4-H, Gymnastics, Tutoring
Hobbies: Volunteer Tutoring Children, Gymnastics, Piano, Dance, Art Drawing, Ceramics, Music
College: Purdue University
Major: Elementary Education
Family: Parents: Bob & Sue Bowerman; Siblings: Rick, Jake

Project Proud Topic: Heifer International

Zac Chittum

Bourbon — Triton High School



Activities: Wrestling, Football, Michiana Wrestling Academy, FBLA, NHS, Class President, KYLA, Peer Mediation (CEO)
Hobbies: Wrestling, Watching Movies, Hanging Out W/Friends
College: Ball State
Major: Business Management
Family: Parents: Ted & Jan; Siblings: Tyler

Project Proud Topic: Bourbon Senior Center

Jon Clevenger

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: Golf Team
Hobbies: Golf
College: Undecided
Major: Undecided
Family: Parents: Jerry & Shirlee; Siblings: Kady, Joe

Project Proud Topic: Breaking the Language Barrier

Korey Flinn

Pierceton — Whitko High School



Activities: Gospel Choir, Model UN, French Club, Tennis
Hobbies: Models, RC Cars, Classic Cars, Drawing, Tennis
College: Anderson Univ. or Manchester College
Major: Criminal Justice
Family: Parents: Kip & Deb; Siblings: Shawn, Chris, & Phil

Project Proud Topic: Animal Welfare League

Amanda Fozo

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: FFA, IQHYA, 4-H
Hobbies: Riding/ Showing My Horse
College: Miami of Ohio or DePauw
Major: Science/ Medical Field
Family: Parents: Phil & Bev; Siblings: Philip Jr.

Project Proud Topic: Bundles of Love

Dave Gabhart

Bourbon — Triton High School



Activities: Many School Clubs, Football, Wrestling, Track
Hobbies: Rock Climbing, Dirt Biking, Construction Work
College: Liberty University
Major: Cross-Cultural Missions
Family: Parents: Jim & Lorri; Siblings: James, Cherish, & Candice

Project Proud Topic: House Remodeling

Drew Houvener

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: Student Council, Student Leadership, Academic Superbowl, NHS, NAC
Hobbies: Playing Piano, Playing Organ On Sunday Mornings
College: Undecided
Major: Undecided
Family: Parents: Jim & Grace; Siblings: Lindsay & Tyler

Project Proud Topic: Breaking the Monotony of Retired Life

Melinda Kessie

South Whitley — Whitko High School



Activities: FFA, Gospel Choir, French Club, Jr. Leaders (Whitley Co.)
Hobbies: Scrapbooking, Cooking, Singing, FFA, 4-H
College: Manchester
Major: Secondary Education
Family: Parents: Kim & Kent Reese, the late Olin Kessie; Siblings: Laura & Rachelle Kessie, Kristi Helvie

Project Proud Topic: Project Paws! (Kos. Co. Animal Welfare League)

Alison Kropf

Syracuse — Wawasee High School



Activities: Tennis, Dance, St. Andrew's UM Church, Student Rep. Council, DECA, Jr. Class Vice-Pres.
Hobbies: Tennis, Dance, Skiing, Shopping, Piano
College: University of Georgia
Major: Registered Nurse
Family: Parents: Omer Kropf & Delores Kropf; Siblings: 2 Brothers, 2 Sisters

Project Proud Topic: Heifer International

Jodie Lieffring

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: BPA, SADD, NHS, Latin Club, Mathletes, Class Act Dance Troupe, Chicago Nat'l. Assoc. of Dance Masters (NADM), HS Cheerleading
Hobbies: Dance, Cheerleading, Lake Activities
College: Undecided
Major: International Business & Dance
Family: Parents: Pete & Peggy; Siblings: Jessica

Project Proud Topic: WWII Veteran's Recognition Day

Angele Marandet

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: Church Youth Group, French Club, SADD, Octagon Club, FCA, Mathletes, Rugby Team, NHS
Hobbies: Playing Piano, Reading & Baking
College: Indiana University
Major: Pre-Medicine
Family: Parents: Noe & Honorine; Siblings: Sylvie, Maude, Moses, Paul, Mary Ann

Project Proud Topic: Riley's Hospital Dolls

Heather Rathbun

Akron — Tippecanoe Valley High School



Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, KYLA, PEP, NHS, Sunshine Society, SADD, 4-H
Hobbies: Hanging Out W/Friends, Shopping, Watching Movies, Reading
College: Purdue University
Major: Management (Hotel & Tourism-HTM)
Family: Parents: Cam & Pat; Siblings: Gail

Project Proud Topic: Plan a KYLA Reunion

Jessica Sadler

Warsaw — Warsaw Community Hospital



Activities: Octagon Club, Golf, Tennis, NHS
Hobbies: Spending time W/Friends & Family
College: Undecided
Major: Dentistry
Family: Parents: John & Debbie; Siblings: Derek

Project Proud Topic: Riley Hospital Dolls

Tiffany Secor

Warsaw — Whitko High School



Activities: Job At Hardee's, High School Play, Drama Club, NHS, Thespian Society
Hobbies: Listening To Music, Computer
College: IPFW
Major: Something W/ Sociology
Family: Parents: Valerie & Melvin; Siblings: Tyler

Project Proud Topic: Kids for Communities

Lacey Shewman

Akron — Tippecanoe Valley High School



Activities: Cheerleading, Track, NHS, Sunshine Society, KYLA, French Club, 4-H, SADD, Student Govt., Jr. Class Pres.
Hobbies: Hanging Out W/Friends, Shopping, Reading, Listening To Music
College: DePauw or U of I
Major: Communications
Family: Parents: Ron & Peg; Siblings: Nathan & Caleb

Project Proud Topic: Plan a KYLA Reunion

Ben Speicher

Bourbon — Triton Jr./Sr. High School



Activities: Church, Track, Rock-Climbing
Hobbies: Rock-Climbing, Pursuit of Happiness
College: Undecided
Major: Undecided
Family: Parents: Bruce & Jennita; Siblings: Audrey, Tim, Rachel

Project Proud Topic: House Remodeling

Lauren St. Clair

Larwill — Whitko High School



Activities: Youth Group, SADD, Work @ American Table
Hobbies: Art, Reading, Journaling, Tennis
College: Purdue University
Major: Food Nutrition & Dietetics
Family: Sam, Sara, Katie, Cory, Ross, Grant, Mike & Manelle

Project Proud Topic: Kids for Communities

Daniel Stichter

Etna Green — Triton Jr./Sr. High School



Activities: Baseball, Football, Student Council, NHS, FBLA, Spanish Club, Science Club, Class Treasurer, Camp Creek Youth Group
Hobbies: Guitar, Computers, Hangin' W/ Friends
College: Undecided
Major: Undecided
Family: Steve, Cindy, Stephanie, Sarah

Project Proud Topic: House Remodeling

Amanda Wiley

Warsaw — Tippecanoe Valley High School



Activities: Volleyball, Sunshine Society, NHS, Student Govt., KYLA, Track
Hobbies: Hanging Out W/Friends, Shopping, Watching Movies, Club Volleyball
College: Undecided
Major: Science Or Medicine
Family: Parents: David & Linda; Siblings: Lindsay & Doug

Project Proud Topic: Plan a KYLA Reunion

Lindsay Wiley

Warsaw — Tippecanoe Valley High School



Activities: NHS, Sunshine Society, Volleyball, Track, KYLA
Hobbies: Hang Out W/ Friends, Club Volleyball (FW Volleyball Club), Listen To Music
College: Undecided
Major: Education Or Sports Medicine
Family: Parents: David & Linda; Siblings: Douglas, Amanda

Project Proud Topic: Plan a KYLA Reunion

Kane Wu

Warsaw — Warsaw Community High School



Activities: Track
Hobbies: Sports
College: Purdue
Major: Engineering
Family: Parents: Xiong Ze & Lixia; Siblings: Lin

Project Proud Topic: Breaking the Language Barrier